Declassified and Approved For Release 2013/04/29 : CIA-RDP80M01009A000901430038-2

Text of Release to be given out by DOD Sunday afternoon, June 29, 1958.

It has been ascertained that an unarmed military transport Air Force plane of the DC-6 type with destination Tehran via Turkey is missing. It is undoubtedly the plane wh9ch the Soviet Union charges crossed the border of Soviet territory and was forced to land near Erevan, USSR.

This was a routine flight, on a regular bimonthly schedule, carrying cargo consigned to United States military and diplomatic missions in Iran and Pakistan. The flight originated in Weisbaden for Tehran and Karachi. Its last departure point was Nicosia, Cyprus, with destination Tehran by the prescribed international civil airways route. It was last reported over Adana, Turkey, at 13.23 local time on June 27. This commercial air lane to Tehran passes within about 50 miles of the Soviet border. The weather was overcast. Due to high mountains along the route, it is presumed that the aircraft was flying above the overcast on instruments and radio beacon guidance and had no visual reference to ground check points.

The usual request for diplomatic clearance had been made to Tehran, Iran, and had been granted.

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There is no basis whatsoever for the Soviet charge that there was deliberate violation of the air space of the Soviet Union.

The Department of State is instructing the United States Ambassador to Moscow to seek the prompt return of the crew consisting of six officers and three airmen.

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